

Remarks

Claims 1 – 6, and 8 – 17 are presently pending. Claims 1 – 6, and 8 – 17 are presently rejected. Claims 1, 12, 16, and 17 have been amended. Examination and reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Claims 1 – 6, and 8 – 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,656,041 (“Kaminkow”) and in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0209672 (“Okada”).

Independent claims 1, 12, 16, and 17 have been amended.

Claims 1, 12, 16, and 17, as now amended, are directed to a gaming machine that has a panel carrying artwork on one side of a chamber. A light-diffusing element is arranged on an opposite side of the chamber. A gaming machine illuminating arrangement including first and second groups of semiconductor illuminating elements is arranged between the panel and the light-diffusing element. A controller operates a first group of semiconductor illuminating elements to emit light of a first color, and a second group of semiconductor illuminating elements to emit light of a second color different from said first color.

Kaminkow fails to disclose claims 1, 12, 16, and 17.

In fact, page 4 of the Action agrees and indicates that “Kaminkow also does not specifically disclose that the light diffusing element can be arranged on an opposed side of the chamber in a spaced relationship relative to the panel.”

Not only Kaminkow fails to disclose a light diffusing element, but Kaminkow also does not disclose a gaming machine illuminating arrangement including first and second groups of semiconductor illuminating elements being arranged between the panel and the light-diffusing element.

Particularly, Kaminkow discloses that

[the] depicted housing 58 includes an illumination device 68 (best viewed in FIG. 3) that provides a lighting effect such as simulating lightning. The housing 58 also includes a opaque or translucent plastic face plate 70 removably connected thereto which acts to diffuse the light, heightening the lightening effect. It should be appreciated that the face plate 70 may also display the name of the primary or secondary game. While an opaque or translucent plastic face plate 70 is discussed, other suitable materials are contemplated.

See col. 4, lines 16 – 26. That is, Kaminkow discloses a faceplate that functions as a diffuser.

However, as indicated on page 3 of the Action, the Examiner considers panel 70 as the claimed panel. Kaminkow thus discloses that panel 70 is also a diffuser, which is inseparable from the panel. Kaminkow does not teach or suggest that any space between the inseparable panel and diffuser.

Okada fails to cure the deficiencies of Kaminkow.

For Okada's display device to be combined with Kaminkow's panel, Kaminkow must disclose the claimed spatial relationship between the panel and the light-diffusing element. However, Kaminkow, as disclosed above, discloses one panel that also functions as a light diffuser. The Examiner thus has not established a prima facie case of obviousness, particularly, on how Okada's display device can be inserted into one panel that also functions as a light diffuser.

Therefore, Kaminkow and Okada, in combination, do not teach or suggest claims 1, 12, 16, and 17. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 12, 16, and 17 would not have been obvious in view of Kaminkow and Okada.

Dependent claims 2 – 6, and 8 – 11 are accordingly allowable for at least the reasons set forth above as to claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that all of claims 1 – 6, and 8 – 17 are allowable. In the event that the Examiner believes a telephone interview with the undersigned Applicant's Representative would be helpful in advancing prosecution of this patent application, the undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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